

and using up our parks and our public lands, and we haven't been maintaining them.

Again, you don't just get to go to the public land in Kansas, if you are from Kansas, or to the Great Smokies, if you are from Tennessee or North Carolina, or to Yellowstone, if you are from Wyoming or Montana—all of us go to that, and we have let them run down. That is about people. That is about people.

Here we are in this big COVID-19 crisis. What does everyone want to do today more than anything else? Get outdoors. Get out of the house. Here you are, cooped up with teenagers or Grandma or all of you, just a few people sitting there for 3 months. You want a little space.

The people who go to these open spaces are the people who live on the coast. They live in the big cities. They want a little variety in their lives, and we are glad for them to have it. When they go, they don't want a bathroom that doesn't work or a visitors center that is in shambles. They don't want a pothole in the road or a trail that is worn down. They would like to have a place they could enjoy, that is in good shape, and they can go home.

I think about the campground on Chilhowee Mountain just outside the Smokies. There might be a few campers from Louisiana who like to come up there whenever we play LSU. I don't know, but probably there are. Well, it has been closed for 2 or 3 years because the sewage system doesn't work. That is at least 500 families who don't get to have the opportunity to do that.

I am sympathetic to the Senator from Louisiana. I think he is one of our most able Senators. He is making a very forceful argument for a real problem: coastal resiliency. But I don't buy this idea that just because this bill doesn't fix that problem we should jeopardize this bill.

Think about it. We have the President of the United States, who personally is interested in this bill. His Secretary of the Interior came down to Tennessee to see me 2½ years ago. It is the first administration that said: "We are going to look at the money we get from energy exploration, and after we give some to Louisiana and after we give some to Wyoming and after we give some to Alaska and the other coastal States, we are going to take half of what is left for 5 years, and we are going to use it to fix all of those things that need to be fixed in our national treasures."

I said: "OK, if the President is going to support it and his Office of Management and Budget is going to be the first Office of Management and Budget to allow money to be spent in that way, I am going to get behind it."

Then I came up here and fell into some pretty good company; the Senator from Colorado, the Senator from Montana, Senator WARNER from Virginia, and Senator PORTMAN from Ohio were already working on the subject. Senator KING of Maine, Senator HEIN-

RICH, Senator CANTWELL were involved in the land and water. It became absolutely clear that, if we didn't put these two bills together, none of them—neither of them—would pass. If they didn't go together, neither of them would pass.

We consulted with all of the people in the Senate who were working on this. There wasn't complete agreement. There were a number of Senators who had other amendments that they would have liked to have, Senators whom I greatly respect and whose amendments I would probably support by the one. But as we looked at it and as we consulted with the more than 800 groups—the sportsmen, the anglers, the environmental groups—we all agreed that our only chance to get both bills was to put them together and say to the Senate: "Let's vote on it; let's send it to the House to see if they will vote on it; and after 60 years of trying, maybe we can get a good result."

I think that is why we got 80 votes. The first time, this came up on a procedural vote, and 79 the second time it came up.

A number of Senators have gone home tonight because this is a late-night vote. The reason we are having a late-night vote is because those who agree with Senator CASSIDY have insisted on taking the maximum amount of time. That is their right to do, so we are here. If we succeed tonight, then we will have three votes on Monday, all of which are very important votes. So we are close to getting this train to the station.

Senator CASSIDY has made an eloquent appeal to add an idea that is good, but an idea that is big and complex and deserves its own day in the Sun, just as it came to our Energy Committee, of which I sit and he sits. I voted for it at that time, but we just can't add it to this bill and get this train to the station. That is the fact of the matter.

As much as I respect him and his ideas, I hope that he and others who agree with him would say: "Look, this is our one chance to get this kind of funding to make our national parks and all the rest of our public lands—the boat ramps, the trails, the roads, the sewage—our one chance to begin to fix the maintenance over a 5-year period of time instead of 10, 15, 25 years, or never. It is our one chance to do that."

I am sure it is our one chance to get the Land and Water Conservation Fund permanently funded, as Congress agreed to do in 1964 and as President Reagan's Commission on America's Outdoors, which I chaired in 1985 and 1986, recommended as its No. 1 priority.

Let's not try to preach the whole Bible in one sermon. We have two good big ideas. Together, they make the most important piece of conservation legislation in a half century.

You say: "Well, Senators are always exaggerating." I don't try to exaggerate too much, and I defy anyone to point me another bill that does more. I

know we have been working on land and water since 1964. That is more than a half century. I know that this deferred maintenance has been building up for a long, long time. It is the single biggest problem the national parks and our public lands have.

I think 95 percent of the American people would wonder why we can't pass it in 5 minutes. The reason is, there are lots of good ideas here, and if you load them all up in the same wheelbarrow or on the same train, the wheelbarrow collapses, and the train doesn't get to the station. That is where we are. That is where we are.

I hope that, with respect to the good ideas advocated tonight by the Senator from Louisiana—I know he will keep at it. I am on the same committee he is. I have voted for his idea before. I think it deserves its day in the Sun, and I will help him do that, but I would like to ask him to help us finish the job here on the most important piece of conservation legislation. I want him to know that those LSU Tigers are always welcome in the Great Smoky Mountains, even if we bought it and paid for it and gave it to the whole country.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 17, the motion to invoke cloture on the Gardner amendment in the nature of a substitute, No. 1617, to H.R. 1957. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

REMEMBERING HECKY POWELL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, even during this pandemic, people have been forming lines—6 feet apart and masked—at the corner of Emerson and Green Bay Road in Evanston, IL, to pick up Hecky's Barbeque. They come for the pulled pork, chicken wings, and especially the sauce. And for years, Hecky Powell was there with his family's recipes, his hard work, his smile, and his wisdom. Sadly, on May 22, Hecky passed away from pneumonia after a diagnosis of COVID-19. He used to say that people kept coming in for the sauce—that is what made the food great. Well, part of what made Evanston great was Hecky. For 37 years, he brought good barbeque, leadership, and kindness to Evanston, and today we pay tribute to him.

Harry William "Hecky" Powell was born in 1948 at Cook County Hospital.